

AIKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 Brookhaven Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

GRADES PK-12

ENROLLMENT 24,164 Students

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

BOARD CHAIR Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

FISCAL AUTHORITY District Board

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

2004

ABSOLUTE RATING: **GOOD**

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
3	13	1	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING: **AVERAGE**

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS: **NO**

This district met 32 out of 33 objectives. The objectives included performance and participation of students in various groups and student attendance rate.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Good	Below Average	N/A
2002	Good	Below Average	N/A
2003	Good	Below Average	No
2004	Good	Average	No

DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERCENT OF STUDENT RECORDS MATCHED FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING IMPROVEMENT RATING

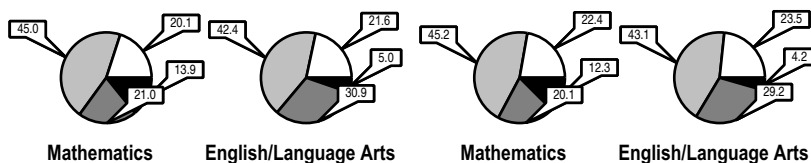
Percent of students tested in 2003-04 whose 2002-03 test scores were located.

78.8%





PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT)

Our District

Districts with Students like Ours



Definition of Critical Terms

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (HSAP) EXAM PASSAGE RATE: SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

	Our District			Districts with Students like Ours		
Percent	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Passed both subtests	77.3	N/A	N/A	78.4	N/A	N/A
Passed 1 subtest	11.5	N/A	N/A	11.9	N/A	N/A
Passed no subtests	11.1	N/A	N/A	9.6	N/A	N/A

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP*

Percent of	Our District	Districts with Students like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	23.8	16.2
Seniors who met the SAT/ACT requirement	24.1	16.6
Seniors who met the grade point average	51.6	52.2

*Using only the SAT/ACT and grade point average requirements

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts							
All Students	11,619	99.3	21.6	42.5	30.9	5.0	36.0
Gender							
Male	5,967	99.2	26.3	43.1	26.8	3.8	30.6
Female	5,652	99.4	16.6	41.8	35.2	6.4	41.6
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	6,894	99.5	14.9	39.9	38.1	7.1	45.2
African-American	4,226	99.3	31.9	46.8	19.6	1.6	21.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	87	100.0	7.0	37.2	41.9	14.0	55.8
Hispanic	354	95.8	35.4	41.2	21.5	1.9	23.5
American Indian/Alaskan	34	100.0	12.5	56.3	25.0	6.3	31.3
Disability Status							
Not Disabled	10,145	99.4	18.4	42.6	33.5	5.5	39.0
Disabled	1,474	98.6	44.0	41.4	12.6	2.0	14.7
Migrant Status							
Migrant	77	96.1	37.5	41.7	19.4	1.4	20.8
Non-Migrant	11,542	99.3	21.4	42.5	31.0	5.1	36.1
English Proficiency							
Limited English Proficient	151	90.1	54.8	42.1	3.2	0.0	3.2
Non-Limited English Proficient	11,468	99.4	21.2	42.5	31.3	5.1	36.4
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	6,180	99.0	31.2	46.5	20.9	1.5	22.3
Full-pay meals	5,431	99.7	11.3	38.2	41.6	8.8	50.5
Mathematics							
All Students	11,618	99.5	20.1	45.0	21.0	13.9	34.9
Gender							
Male	5,967	99.4	21.3	43.8	20.4	14.5	34.9
Female	5,651	99.6	18.9	46.2	21.6	13.4	34.9
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	6,894	99.6	13.0	42.0	25.8	19.2	45.0
African-American	4,225	99.4	31.2	50.5	13.2	5.1	18.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	87	100.0	5.8	30.2	24.4	39.5	64.0
Hispanic	354	99.7	30.1	43.6	16.9	9.4	26.3
American Indian/Alaskan	34	100.0	21.9	43.8	28.1	6.3	34.4
Disability Status							
Not Disabled	10,144	99.6	16.5	45.2	22.8	15.4	38.3
Disabled	1,474	98.8	45.1	43.4	7.9	3.6	11.5
Migrant Status							
Migrant	77	100.0	33.8	45.9	12.2	8.1	20.3
Non-Migrant	11,541	99.5	20.0	45.0	21.0	14.0	35.0
English Proficiency							
Limited English Proficient	151	99.3	46.3	47.0	6.0	0.7	6.7
Non-Limited English Proficient	11,467	99.5	19.8	45.0	21.2	14.1	35.3
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	6,179	99.2	28.6	50.8	14.8	5.9	20.7
Full-pay meals	5,431	99.8	11.1	38.9	27.6	22.5	50.1

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specifies that the statewide target is met for All Students and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable **N/AV** Not Available **N/C** Not Collected **N/R** Not Reported **I/S** Insufficient Sample

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts								
2003	Grade 3	1,869	98.8	16.5	36.9	42.0	4.6	46.6
	Grade 4	1,978	99.2	22.2	44.2	30.8	2.8	33.6
	Grade 5	2,093	98.9	28.5	48.0	22.3	1.3	23.5
	Grade 6	2,004	99.0	33.2	37.7	24.0	5.1	29.1
	Grade 7	1,892	98.6	28.6	48.0	21.2	2.3	23.4
	Grade 8	1,859	99.1	27.4	49.2	19.7	3.7	23.4
2004	Grade 3	1,803	99.7	10.6	31.4	48.4	9.6	58.0
	Grade 4	1,909	99.2	16.7	44.9	36.0	2.3	38.4
	Grade 5	1,975	99.6	21.7	49.6	26.3	2.4	28.7
	Grade 6	2,115	99.4	34.2	35.9	24.7	5.2	29.9
	Grade 7	1,972	99.1	23.1	48.0	24.1	4.8	28.9
	Grade 8	1,855	98.9	23.1	50.0	21.7	5.2	26.9

Mathematics								
2003	Grade 3	1,869	99.6	13.7	52.8	21.0	12.4	33.5
	Grade 4	1,978	99.8	15.6	45.4	22.9	16.1	39.0
	Grade 5	2,093	99.4	24.3	47.6	19.0	9.0	28.1
	Grade 6	2,004	99.5	19.7	38.5	24.6	17.2	41.7
	Grade 7	1,892	99.2	25.4	43.3	17.3	13.9	31.3
	Grade 8	1,859	99.5	23.2	51.0	16.7	9.2	25.8
2004	Grade 3	1,803	99.8	15.6	53.8	22.6	8.0	30.6
	Grade 4	1,909	99.6	16.6	47.7	21.2	14.5	35.7
	Grade 5	1,975	99.8	21.6	43.7	21.1	13.6	34.7
	Grade 6	2,115	99.5	20.6	38.3	23.7	17.4	41.1
	Grade 7	1,972	99.2	21.7	41.8	19.4	17.0	36.4
	Grade 8	1,855	99.1	27.8	48.3	14.8	9.1	23.9

SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

These schools will be reported in a separate document.

DEFINITION OF SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

Title I schools that fail to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years

HSAP PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts							
All Students	1,867	96.7	13.5	24.7	32.8	29.0	61.8
Gender							
Male	906	96.2	15.7	25.2	33.0	26.1	59.1
Female	961	97.2	11.4	24.3	32.7	31.7	64.3
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	1,156	97.5	7.5	19.1	34.9	38.5	73.4
African-American	643	95.5	24.2	35.5	30.1	10.2	40.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	48	95.8	22.7	22.7	20.5	34.1	54.5
American Indian/Alaskan	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Disability Status							
Not Disabled	1,664	97.1	7.4	24.7	35.9	32.1	68.0
Disabled	203	93.6	67.0	25.1	6.1	1.7	7.8
Migrant Status							
Migrant	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Non-Migrant	1,864	96.8	13.5	24.7	30.0	29.0	61.8
English Proficiency							
Limited English Proficient	15	93.3	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	42.9
Non-Limited English Proficient	1,852	96.8	13.3	24.7	32.9	29.1	62.0
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	717	95.3	26.1	34.1	27.0	12.9	39.8
Full-pay meals	1,146	97.6	5.9	19.0	36.4	38.7	75.1

Mathematics							
All Students	1,867	96.4	18.2	26.5	30.0	25.3	55.3
Gender							
Male	906	96.0	17.9	25.5	28.8	27.7	56.6
Female	961	96.7	18.5	27.4	31.1	23.0	54.2
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	1,156	97.2	11.5	21.2	33.0	34.3	67.3
African-American	643	94.7	31.3	36.9	24.0	7.8	31.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	48	95.8	15.9	25.0	34.1	25.0	59.1
American Indian/Alaskan	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Disability Status							
Not Disabled	1,664	96.9	11.7	27.2	33.0	28.1	61.1
Disabled	203	92.1	76.3	19.8	3.4	0.6	4.0
Migrant Status							
Migrant	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Non-Migrant	1,864	96.4	18.2	26.4	30.0	25.3	55.3
English Proficiency							
Limited English Proficient	15	93.3	14.3	42.9	28.6	14.3	42.9
Non-Limited English Proficient	1,852	96.4	18.2	26.3	30.0	25.4	55.4
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	717	94.3	31.3	32.6	26.8	9.3	36.1
Full-pay meals	1,146	97.6	10.3	22.8	32.0	34.9	66.8

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2004		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate		Met State Objective
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
All students	1,448	96.7%	1,262	23.8%	1,543	76.9%	N/A
Gender							
Male	702	96.7%	565	25.5%	766	70.8%	
Female	734	97.0%	697	22.4%	777	82.9%	
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	997	98.5%	847	31.1%	1,003	83.4%	
African American	397	92.7%	376	7.4%	490	63.5%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	100.0%	13	46.2%	14	92.9%	
Hispanic	26	92.3%	23	8.7%	32	65.6%	
American Indian/Alaskan	2	I/S	1	I/S	2	I/S	
Disability Status							
Not disabled	1,351	97.5%	1,192	25.2%	1,392	81.5%	
Disabilities other than speech	87	87.4%	70	0.0%	151	33.8%	
Migrant Status							
Migrant	1	I/S	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Non-migrant	1,426	96.8%	1,262	23.8%	N/A	N/A	
English Proficiency							
Limited English proficient	4	I/S	3	I/S	6	33.3%	
Non-LEP	1,425	97.0%	1,259	23.8%	1,536	77.1%	
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	365	92.1%	338	4.4%	476	54.4%	
Full-pay meals	1,065	98.5%	924	30.8%	1,067	86.9%	

* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

EXAM PASSAGE RATE BY SPRING 2004

	Our District	Districts with Students like Ours
Percent	96.7%	95.3%

GRADUATION RATE

	Our District	Districts with Students like Ours
Number of Students	1,543	737
Number of Diplomas	1,186	565
Rate	76.9%	79.2%

2003-04 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
District	500	504	508	513	1008	1017
State	493	491	496	495	989	986
Nation	507	508	519	518	1026	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
District	19.6	20.0	20.4	20.4	20.1	20.8	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.4
State	18.7	18.8	19.0	19.1	19.4	19.4	19.2	19.3	19.2	19.3
Nation	20.3	20.4	20.6	20.7	21.2	21.3	20.8	20.9	20.8	20.9

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n= 24,164)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	93.7%	N/C	95.2%	97.2%
Retention rate	5.1%	Down from 5.2%	4.9%	5.3%
Attendance rate	95.4%	Up from 95.0%	96.3%	96.2%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	6.1%		5.7%	5.8%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (Math) off grade level	5.1%		5.1%	5.1%
Eligible for gifted and talented	20.9%	Up from 20.0%	16.4%	11.6%
On academic plans	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
On academic probation	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	8.6%	Up from 8.5%	11.7%	10.9%
Older than usual for grade	5.0%	Down from 5.1%	3.9%	5.0%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.9%	Down from 1.0%	1.5%	1.1%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	23.6%	Down from 26.6%	16.2%	9.9%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	437	Down from 674	233	157
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	73	Down from 200	50	39
Annual dropout rate	3.5%	Up from 3.2%	3.5%	2.9%
Teachers (n= 1,573)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	41.8%	Up from 38.7%	52.4%	50.0%
Continuing contract teachers	85.6%	Up from 83.4%	85.6%	84.6%
Highly qualified teachers**	91.8%	N/A	92.7%	92.5%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	4.3%		3.6%	4.4%
Teachers returning from previous year	91.7%	Up from 91.3%	90.9%	89.9%
Teacher attendance rate	94.9%	N/R	95.0%	94.7%
Average teacher salary	\$41,370	Up 2.8%	\$40,959	\$40,566
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.3%	N/C	0.0%	0.3%
Prof. development days/teacher	9.6 days	Up from 8.1 days	12.6 days	12.0 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	9.0	Up from 8.0	3.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.6 to 1	Up from 20.3 to 1	22.0 to 1	21.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.5%	N/R	89.7%	89.5%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$6,434	Up 0.5%	\$7,064	\$7,217
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	60.2%	Down from 60.8%	56.3%	55.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	88.1%	Down from 89.2%	97.4%	97.3%
Number of schools	39	No change	16	8
Number of magnet schools	2	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	2	No change	0	0
Number of alternative schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	9.1%	Down from 9.4%	3.4%	4.3%
Average age in years of school facilities	28	Down from 30	26	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	37	No change	14	8
Average administrator salary	\$67,194		\$67,713	\$67,300

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools**	90.4%	92.0%
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools**	92.7%	91.1%
	State Objective	Met State Objective
Highly qualified teachers**	65.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate	95.3%	Yes

**NOTE: The verification process was not completed for the year reported; therefore the count of highly qualified teachers may not be accurate.

SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE

Board Membership	9 trustees elected to single-member seats
Fiscal Authority	District Board
Average Number of Hours of Training Annually	102.0 per board member
Percent new trustees completing orientation	100.0%

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The 2003-2004 school year has been marked by significant academic achievement. We are very proud of the progress our students have made and continue to make.

The average SAT score for graduating seniors in the class of 2003 was 1008. (The previous class met the national average with a score of 1020. This score represented a 12-point increase over the previous year and showed a 49-point increase since 1995. This is the first time in history that the SAT average met the national average.) Students in Aiken County perform significantly better than the nation in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics as measured by Terra Nova, a nationally normed achievement test. All grade levels exceeded the national 60th percentile. Students in grades three through eight have shown improvement over five years on the rigorous Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT), a state-required test. Eighty (80) percent of our students score Basic or above on the test in Mathematics and 74 percent score Basic or above on the test in English/Language Arts. The performance of our students is considered better than that of students in school districts that are similar to ours.

Well over 90 percent of our students pass the South Carolina High School Exit Examination in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing before graduation. Nearly 70 percent of our graduating seniors enter a post-secondary institution and pass over 90 percent of their course work their freshman year. School Match, a non-profit Chicago-based research firm that reviews data from the nation's 15,893 school systems, has selected this school system for the eighth consecutive year as an award-winning educational system.

In my role as the superintendent of education, I assure you that it is the goal of the Aiken County Board of Education to provide quality educational opportunities for all students.

We are always focused on continuous improvement. Educators, parents, students, and various communities are working hard to ensure that every student receives a quality education.

Dr. Linda B. Eldridge, Superintendent